

Interviewee: [Inaudible]

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. So \_\_\_\_\_ –

Interviewee: [Inaudible].

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Interviewee: [Inaudible] they had the [inaudible] they had bloody battles shot with [inaudible] and the last battle they had, they had it in the mountains, back in those mountains, between miners and the mine guards. And they killed one man up there, killed two. They had already killed one, and he killed two [inaudible] the guard had killed two men, and he killed a third.

And \_\_\_\_\_ this man shot three of them before he died \_\_\_\_\_ it's the same [inaudible]. I never did think that I would ever forget that guard's name because I know them, they regard [inaudible], just came from different backgrounds.

Interviewer: Hm

Interviewee: Phelps was one of them

Interviewer: Oh, so it was Bolling Phelps. Is that what you were thinking of?

Interviewee: [Inaudible].

Interviewer: Well, it was actually Phelps. The name of the agency was Bolling Phelps.

Interviewee: [Inaudible].

Interviewer: And so –

Interviewee: [Inaudible].

Interviewer: I have a book here that might have it in here, what you're thinking of. Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ might have it in there, what you \_\_\_\_\_.

Interviewee: [Inaudible]. Charlie Winfield was in there and he was killed over in that Logan mines,

Interviewer: Who was that?

*Interviewee:* [Inaudible] Charlie Winfield he was in here in 1912 in Logan we call it, he was from Logan and they went back to Logan.

*Interviewer:* How about this? The names are W. W. Faw, Robert Stringer, J. E. Hearnese, and Don Slater.

*Interviewee:* Don Slater. That's the \_\_\_\_\_ one.

*Interviewer:* That's \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewee:* And then there was another one. But that's not his name, but I can't think of his name.

*Interviewer:* You know, one thing that maybe you can explain to me that I've been trying to understand now, in 1921, when they marched down to Logan, they were organized in this part of the country.

*Interviewee:* No, they was striking in this part of the country. They were not – they hadn't been organized. Nineteen twenty-one – yeah.

*Interviewer:* Twenty-one.

*Interviewee:* Yes, exactly. They didn't strike for 22 years. That's right. They were organized.

*Interviewer:* But it was all unorganized through Logan County, and down there.

*Interviewee:* Yeah, I think so. \_\_\_\_\_ family \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer:* Well, why did the miners here care so much about the condition of the miners down there?

*Interviewee:* Because they wanted to – they wanted a strong organization. They wanted everything organized. They wanted everything under the union \_\_\_\_\_ down here and colored fella over there and was killed. And I don't know how many I know that died. There was four or five men that went from here to fight in that Colorado fight, you know, when they set that on fire and burned a lot of people up.

*Interviewer:* Yeah.

*Interviewee:* You know \_\_\_\_\_ about that –

*Interviewer:* Yeah, I know about that.

*Interviewee:* It was a colored man I can't think of his name. I've got so I forget names \_\_\_\_\_, but when I don't want \_\_\_\_\_ to think of them I might say the name sitting around \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer:* Sure.

*Interviewee:* But [inaudible].

*Interviewer:* But I take it –

*Interviewee:* They killed a colored man, and they killed several – several of them went over there, and \_\_\_\_\_ at Colorado, and then they went to – went to – and they \_\_\_\_\_ and they got away from there. They wasn't killed [inaudible] organize \_\_\_\_\_ over there, and then they went to Montana. Some of them went out there and died there \_\_\_\_\_. [Inaudible] he was in that \_\_\_\_\_ he was in that armed march, too, that fellow was.

*Interviewer:* Yeah? Yeah?

*Interviewee:* And he's the fellow that broke the \_\_\_\_\_ over yonder in Logan County and helped the Cavalry

*Interviewer:* He's not living no any more?

*Interviewee:* No, he's not living. He died here \_\_\_\_\_. His brother was a great worker, and the man that picked what he wanted, too. He was \_\_\_\_\_. We had [inaudible]. But he come here – he come here like to work here, and he had relatives in this country. And he come over here and helped to organize in 12 \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ he pitched to the '22 strike, and he was in the Logan march, but he was no young man then.

I don't know whether you ever heard tell of the battle of the Wytheville where \_\_\_\_\_ shot up the courthouse in Wytheville, Virginia.

*Interviewer:* Mm-hmm.

*Interviewee:* Well, he was one of them. And he come in here \_\_\_\_\_ and helped the fighting.

*Interviewer:* Is Sidney still around?

*Interviewee:* No, he's been dead a long time. He was a \_\_\_\_\_ I think 45 or 48 years old.

*Interviewer:* Oh. Oh. That would make him awfully old now. Yeah.

*Interviewee:* *[Inaudible]*.

*Interviewer:* So I take it that a lot of the guys were really concerned about Logan, because they wanted a strong union all over, and they didn't want competition from these scab mines down there.

*Interviewee:* *[Inaudible]* one thing, see, if they can get away from there they wouldn't do as good as they could, but, you know, I think they couldn't get away from there. They couldn't get away from there. They was just like they was in prison. They didn't allow them to leave. You couldn't quit your job and leave. They had to stay. That's \_\_\_\_\_. that's why they organized But it's like in a place like that that and they was surrounded \_\_\_\_\_ guards with guns would shoot them down if they left the camp to go anywhere, do anything. Some people stayed there all their lives and worked there and put up with it because they couldn't get away.

Somebody killed Troy Hatfield \_\_\_\_\_ one of those blacks, I don't know which one it was over here at Smithers. He was the one, he was from Logan County, and he \_\_\_\_\_ went and was in that armed march, it might have been an armed march, and \_\_\_\_\_ the miners, and \_\_\_\_\_ after he lost it in 1912, and he got killed, I forget, he was a – over there, but then \_\_\_\_\_ they had a strike over the river in Smithers and somebody killed him over there. *[Inaudible]* trying to keep them. I say it takes all kind of people to make a world.

But Mother Jones, she was the – she came up here and she'd make a speech to them. They had \_\_\_\_\_ up here at \_\_\_\_\_ about three miles \_\_\_\_\_. One goes right and one to the left. The coal companies on that side \_\_\_\_\_ they put up gates. They don't want nobody through, you know, on the other side, they put up ropes \_\_\_\_\_. And they allowed people to go through \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer:* Hmm.

*Interviewee:* And Mother Jones, she went up there, and they stood with guns on her, and she still made a speech to those miners. And my mother, she tore the ropes down and started through and they told her *(inaudible)* went through. I say, she tore the ropes down \_\_\_\_\_ and went through.

*Interviewer:* Yeah?

*Interviewee:* Lots of storybook union tales about Mother Jones.

*Interviewer:* I really – I have a lot of admiration for her. She was a fine woman.

*Interviewee:* She was a fine woman, Mother Jones was. But my mother was known just about as well in the union circles, and she \_\_\_\_\_ didn't organize [inaudible].

*Interviewer:* Did she really? Huh. You know, we are trying to – yeah?

*Interviewee:* My mother was one \_\_\_\_\_. [Inaudible] my mother \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, I've heard people talk about your mother, so that's a really wonderful person too .

*Interviewee:* Yeah, I had some papers and pictures and everything in there [inaudible] my house burned down [inaudible] pictures of everything that went on \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_. [Inaudible].

*Interviewer:* One thing I'm wondering about is, you know, when they marched down to Logan, why was it that the miners in Logan didn't fight on their side? You know, why didn't those miners come –

*Interviewee:* [Inaudible]. The guards themselves they forced them to fight. They killed – they killed their own over there. They tried to help the miners \_\_\_\_\_ they did kill \_\_\_\_\_. They did do it. They wasn't all fighting against the miners. They tried – lots of them tried to help the organizers. They didn't have a chance.

*Interviewer:* That's what I – you know, I went down and talked to a number of retired miners in Logan County.

*Interviewee:* Well, you see, I think most retired Logan County miners \_\_\_\_\_ heart and soul of scabs, but they really – they never was unionized never got a union. They won't tell you nothing. You can't find out nothing. [Inaudible].

*Interviewer:* You know, it's interesting, because a lot of those guys are still scared.

*Interviewee:* They're scared? –

*Interviewer:* You know, like they were scared so much, you know.

Interviewee: They are \_\_\_\_\_ they're scared \_\_\_\_\_ now to talk to anybody about it.

Interviewer: That's right.

Interviewee: You don't find \_\_\_\_\_ somebody [inaudible]. They'll tell you all about it. I see lots of old people \_\_\_\_\_ there's an old colored man, they call him Preacher up here, he's been a union man all his life, and he knows all about everything like that. And I'll tell you another one. His mother was good woman [inaudible].

Interviewer: You know what I'd like to do? Can you give me something [inaudible].

[Extended period of distorted and inaudible dialogue]

Interviewee: [Inaudible] see people going away on the weekends, but [inaudible] the trains the only way to get there. But we never did go back to see them.

Interviewer: Yeah, that's interesting. When your brother and all the miners went to the march down to Logan, did they go by train? Did they take a train down there?

Interviewee: [Inaudible] I think they [inaudible]. Because I know that they – that there's a – they \_\_\_\_\_ engineers [inaudible].

Interviewer: Oh, they did?

Interviewee: Yes, they did. rode trains [inaudible].

Interviewer: Were the engineers on their side?

Interviewee: They had to be, because \_\_\_\_\_.

Interviewer: Oh, sure. I just wondered if they were sympathetic.

Interviewee: [Inaudible] Sure they were [Inaudible]. They couldn't say they were.

Interviewer: I see.

Interviewee: [Inaudible] back when they was fighting the miners and everything, the boys went into the \_\_\_\_\_ with their guns, They shot into the trains. Shots went in there [Inaudible] and everything, they didn't mean to kill anyone. That's [inaudible] kill him. They

shot him from the train \_\_\_\_\_. [Inaudible] they'd go out into the streets and bring them \_\_\_\_\_. They didn't \_\_\_\_\_. They'd bring them in here.

Well, \_\_\_\_\_ they got back [inaudible]. They had to stop there and get the orders [Inaudible] They would board these trains and tell them what was going on and if they could get off they would get off but if they had guns they wouldn't let them off. And they burned [inaudible] the boys \_\_\_\_\_ the railroad track, climb telephone poles, cut the lines in two, and [inaudible]. If they had done that \_\_\_\_\_ the way they had guards in here and armored trains [Inaudible]

*Interviewer:* Well, that's too bad. They actually told the scabs that were coming in in time so they could try to get away?

*Interviewee:* They tried to get away, but they couldn't – they held them at gunpoint. If they got there, they had to work or get killed.

*Interviewer:* Where did most of the scabs come in from?

*Interviewee:* They brought him them in from Kentucky, from \_\_\_\_\_, Kentucky \_\_\_\_\_ Virginia and some people [inaudible].

*Interviewer:* Were they mostly colored people that they brought in?

*Interviewee:* No, they brought \_\_\_\_\_ they had already brought tractor train loads when the mine was first opened to start the mine [inaudible] started taking them from Virginia that had never seen a mine before but now they [inaudible] make good coal miners work. They brought the workers in '27 [Inaudible] \_\_\_\_\_ in from Georgia and South Carolina and they didn't have no work. They went in there and brought them in and they were in there [inaudible]. They were fighting, fighting, fighting [Inaudible].

*Interviewer:* So was there a lot of bad feelings between the coloreds and the whites here?

*Interviewee:* Yeah, there was. [Inaudible] There never has, it ain't now. [Inaudible] \_\_\_\_\_ no hard feelings up in here. [Inaudible] They are friendly towards each other. [Inaudible] They don't mix now socially. [Inaudible]

My son [inaudible] there was three of them on the job [Inaudible] my boy wasn't doing nothing. [Inaudible] and he worked \_\_\_\_\_, and he said \_\_\_\_\_ he said, let me tell you, he said, buddy, he says,

if you – if you don't hold up your part of the work \_\_\_\_\_ we're going to kick your fanny, so \_\_\_\_\_ we're going to [inaudible]. [Inaudible] and if you didn't like them, they burned the clothes [inaudible], they burned the dirty clothes \_\_\_\_\_ up \_\_\_\_\_. That's the kind of people [inaudible]. [Inaudible] what you'd call good niggers. I guess they're all \_\_\_\_\_ about the work or [inaudible].

But now you take the Avon people, they say, oh, [inaudible]. My daughter-in-law, she sells Avon, and I was at her house visiting the other day, and [inaudible] it was a [inaudible]. And it's an old house, it's falling down [inaudible]. She sells, uh, lots of Avon, and she makes several hundred dollars a month off of it. And most of it's to colored people.

Interviewer: You know, I still – you know, I'm going to be writing this story on the Logan march.

Interviewee: [Inaudible]. It helps when you've been there.

Interviewer: Well, you told me a lot of interesting stuff, but not too much about that.

Interviewee: Well, it's [inaudible] told you [inaudible] secret march [inaudible] got on in there in the night.

Interviewer: Oh, I didn't know that.

Interviewee: By the time they got their things together and got in there, why, they was fighting in the mountain. They [inaudible] people over there. But you see [inaudible].

Interviewer: Okay. Okay. Good.

Interviewee: \_\_\_\_\_.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Interviewee: So that's what [inaudible] they'd go down there \_\_\_\_\_ every time they [inaudible].

Interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_. They were just out to get those miners, then, and keep the union out.

Interviewee: Yeah. \_\_\_\_\_ break the union \_\_\_\_\_. [Inaudible] break the union down \_\_\_\_\_. [Inaudible].



Interviewer: Sure. You know, one thing is that –

Interviewee: [Inaudible] and they \_\_\_\_\_ the railroads and was taking \_\_\_\_\_ when they opened the mines and \_\_\_\_\_ everything [inaudible] their houses [inaudible] some of them [inaudible] work at night [inaudible].

Interviewer: Hmm.

Interviewee: And they'd go down to the creek and they'd rub their clothes on the rock, rub the dirt off in the creek and hang them on a tree. And they had [inaudible] they'd laugh about that \_\_\_\_\_.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewee: And \_\_\_\_\_ right down in there, like a little thing, and the cup would fit down [inaudible]. And these fellows [inaudible] running water \_\_\_\_\_ a rock or somewhere, and laid a loaf of bread on it \_\_\_\_\_ come dinner time, they'd sop that bread \_\_\_\_\_.

Interviewer: That sounds good.

Interviewee: And at night \_\_\_\_\_ cook [inaudible]. They had big \_\_\_\_\_ washtubs [inaudible] they cooked beef, and they cooked the cabbage, \_\_\_\_\_, and potatoes, and rice, and [inaudible].

Interviewer: Hmm.

Interviewee: [Inaudible] Now I don't know if it was 1908 or '09, they really [inaudible] and they [inaudible] and they'd fix [inaudible] they put \_\_\_\_\_ through that mountain [inaudible]. And then the railroad come [inaudible] until they [inaudible].

Interviewer: Now was the first one here on Cabin Creek? No, there were more \_\_\_\_\_ Cabin Creek before that, but –

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: No, that was the first one?

Interviewee: First one [inaudible].

Interviewer: The Acme mine was –

Interviewee: The Acme mine.

*Interviewer:* Mm-hmm. Was it mostly small operators who – different operators who owned the mines?

*Interviewee:* Yeah, [inaudible] and then about two years later, there was the one they called [inaudible] open that mine. Then [inaudible] and we moved to [inaudible] then. The operator was [inaudible] but his wife \_\_\_\_\_ there. And he \_\_\_\_\_. And he kept [inaudible]. And then the [inaudible].

*Interviewer:* You said Mr. Campbell?

*Interviewee:* Harry Campbell.

*Interviewer:* Now did he own most of the mines in this area?

*Interviewee:* He owned \_\_\_\_\_ he owned the [inaudible].

*Interviewer:* Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

*Interviewee:* [Inaudible] he never did work [inaudible] but Acme was [inaudible] they opened \_\_\_\_\_ one place \_\_\_\_\_ pay for it, and [inaudible] over here, and [inaudible] and then \_\_\_\_\_ right down the road [inaudible] right down the road there [inaudible] and then there was a – there was a Collier, man by the name of Collier \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Collier, and then the other one was \_\_\_\_\_. And then another one, they called it \_\_\_\_\_ Blaine, and \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Forest, \_\_\_\_\_, and what was the name of the other one?

[Crosstalk]

*Interviewee:* [Inaudible] and then \_\_\_\_\_, and then [inaudible] hollow there \_\_\_\_\_ West Virginia 1 and West Virginia 2, and a place they called \_\_\_\_\_, and then the \_\_\_\_\_ Company owned [inaudible] and they \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer:* So essentially it was just a lot of different men came in, and each one would open up a mine?

*Interviewee:* Yeah. [Inaudible] old man Lane come in there, he was [inaudible]. Lake Forest was a \_\_\_\_\_ I was trying to think, I think it was \_\_\_\_\_ what they called Lake Forest. [Inaudible] and there was Lane and Lake Forest and [inaudible].

*Interviewer:* Did men have preferences about which of the mines they worked in?

*Interviewee:* [Inaudible] they worked \_\_\_\_\_ mine [inaudible] and then go to work [inaudible] organized, and broke [inaudible] I don't think that there are any \_\_\_\_\_ any of the [inaudible].

*Interviewer:* Is that so?

*Interviewee:* [Inaudible] the old lady, she come to [inaudible] down here, there was [inaudible] missed the train [inaudible] and she was \_\_\_\_\_ courthouse see what she could find out about her deed. [Inaudible] and so I kept [inaudible]. So that night, when she was [inaudible].

*Interviewer:* And all that so they could buy the land and get rights to it?

*Interviewee:* [Inaudible] we got about 100 [inaudible] 30 years. My sister [inaudible] 30 years ago. And she told me about \_\_\_\_\_ I remember, and she said, \_\_\_\_\_ they burned her house down [inaudible] for 30 years she [inaudible].

*Interviewer:* Huh. Isn't that a nice story? But the coal operators were just so anxious to get that land that –

*Interviewee:* Yeah, they'd kill to get it.

[End of Audio]